

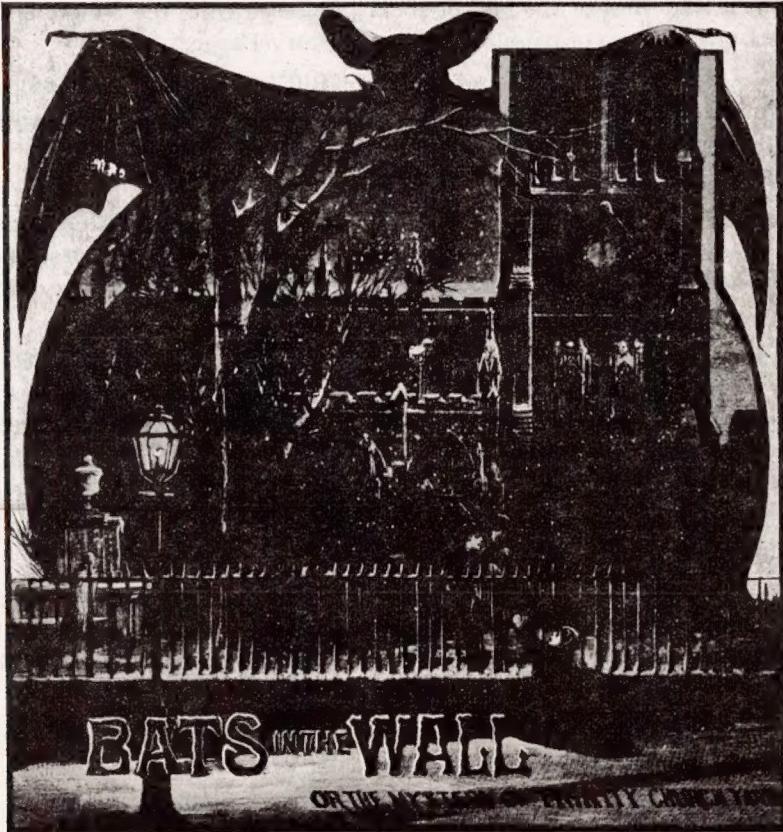
JUNE, 1931

RECKLESS RALPH'S

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD



## MIDNIGHT IN TRINITY CHURCH YARD

Old Trinity Church, at Broadway and Rector Streets, New York, has figured in many a scene in the popular story papers of the past seventy-five years. Among the illustrations of such scenes perhaps the most interesting is this one from the Boys of New York, Nov. 14, 1885, picturing an exciting moment in the opening installment of "Bats in the Wall," by P. T. Raymond. The mother of one of the boys is kneeling in the snow trying to persuade him to keep out of a plot to rob a bank.

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ON THE TRAIL OF THE NOVEL HUNTERS

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By FRED T. SINGLETON

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WILLIAM J. BENNERS . . . Hats off to this old-timer . . . Loyal all his life to the dime novels, nickel libraries and story papers of his boyhood days . . . Had files of the best of them published from the 50's to 90's, etc. . . . At one time a contributor to Family Story Paper.

W. M. BURNS . . . Signs himself "Bill" after you get to know him . . . A real Yankee . . . Once bought for 2½ cents each 600 copies of Old Sleuth Library which he discovered in a bookseller's basement . . . Not a collector . . . Reads 'em and trades 'em.

RALPH F. CUMMINGS . . . Editor and Publisher of this paper . . . I could say a lot of nice things about him . . . But he is so modest and conscientious that he would probably delete every word . . . Has one of the best collections of popular literature in existence.

FRANK T. FRIES . . . Prints this paper . . . Runs Midget Story Paper . . . Likes Frank Reade stories . . . Thinks the illustrations in the old libraries and story papers the best part . . . I am inclined to agree with him.

THOMAS KELLY . . . Another hustling printer who collects and reads the old-dime thrillers . . . Prints Novel Hunter's Year book for Ralph F. Cummings.

P. J. MORAN . . . Has the rare ones in big stacks . . . Took him nearly thirty years to get his stuff together . . . Sentimental about them, too . . . Has nearly a complete file of that popular old-timer, Golden Hours.

ROY E. MORRIS . . . Well supplied with novels and libraries . . . Reads 'em, trades 'em and occasionally sells 'em.

S. NATHAN . . . Another big operator . . . Dime novels, nickel libraries and story papers . . . Has a grand complete file in 28 volumes of that 19th century classic for boys and girls, Golden Days . . . This is the story paper that made the word "golden" a magic name for all the story paper publishers in the 80's.

GEORGE SAHR . . . The man who is getting ready to reprint the Frank Reade stories complete, with original cover illustrations . . . Strictly a collector and trader . . . Began to stack 'em up years ago when you could buy 'em for a nickel apiece.

L. C. SKINNER . . . The Pawtucket, R. I., dealer . . . Was a member

of the old Novel Exchanger's Union back in 1906 . . . In 1915 sold 1200 novels for \$15 . . . But wishes he had them all back today.

ROBERT H. SMELTZER . . . A Golden Hours fan . . . Likes the ones with the colored covers . . . Collects 'em, trades 'em and sells 'em . . . Writes entertainingly about his hobby.

RALPH P. SMITH . . . Runs Happy Hours Magazine . . . Buys 'em wholesale and sells 'em retail . . . Has hundreds of the grand old English novels that make you sit up nights . . . Everything from Jack Sheppard to Frank Merriwell.

—:o:—

### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

George G. Small died at the age of 51, at Hotel Bartholds, N. Y. City, March 10, 1886. He wrote the Peter Pad, Bricktop, Billy, the Bootblack, and many other boys' stories.

"Commander Ah Look" was the pen name Edward Grey.

Cecil Burleigh wrote the Sam Smiley funny stories and many of the N. S. Wood stories for "Boys of New York."

Edward S. Ellis had many nom de plumes—among them being, Lucie St. Dean, E. A. St. Mox, Lieut. Jayne, U. S. Detective, Capt. Hawthorne. St. Geo. Rathbone wrote under 28 pen names.

Annabel Dwight was pen name of Mrs. E. W. Clark.

Gerald Carlton used pen name Bernard Wade.

Etta Rogers was Mrs. E. R. Larbig—Fred W Whittin's, pen name, was Launce Pogntz.

Corp. Morgan Rattler, pen name for Dennis O'Sullivan.

Mary R. Esly wrote under pen names of Hope Holly and Clara Percy.  
(Above items furnished by Wm. J. Benners.)

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### NOVEL SKETCHES, No. 6

New York Boys Library—Size 7x10, 2 cols. to the page, 28 pages of reading, black and whites (sort of blueish,) nice illustration on front page. Pub. by New York Popular Pub. Co., N. Y., in 1882. Sold for 5c each. Some of the stories were: No. 1—Dick; or, The Mystery of the Vault, by Percy Partan. Also in same novel: Two Yankee Tars: or, The Renegade Moore's Revenge.

—:o:—

### PARTIAL LIST OF 1931 MEMBERS OF H. H. B.

- No. 33. Gerald D. Maresca, 1258 Brook Ave., New York, N. Y.
- 40. Tilman Le Blanc, 105 Canonicus St., North Tiverton, R. I.

## JONNIE JONES' DIARY

Boys, let the publisher know how you like the Diary. The one guessing the author of this article will receive, in A-1 shape, a Beadle's Dime Library, or a cloth bound book, by Edward S. Ellis

Jan. 1, 190—Maw presented me with a diury today. She sez fur me to write in it every nite.

"Write whut yu do each day," sez maw. "When yu gro up yu can look back and reed whut yu did as a boy."

"When i gro up i will be two bizy killin injuns two look back and reed whut i dun as a boy," sez I. "A scout has no bizness with a diury anyhow," i sez.

"Thare yu go agin," sez maw. "Readin them dime novuls wil ruin yu yet. Yu wil cum to sum bad end, i no it. Yu wont listen to me, and yur paw wont stop yu. I jest no yu wil be hanged er die in prisun."

"Yep," sez paw, "look whut a bad end i cum two."

Maw didn't say anything, but she looked dagurs at paw.

Paw didn't say any more either. Just looked bak at maw and grinned.

Am reading 'Yung Wild West and the Pawney Chief.' It's a hum dinger of a yarn. I'm goin to be like Yung Wild West when i grow up, an kil injuns. Went out skatin to nite. Had a grate time. Fell down an tore the seat of my pants. Gees! Maw wil hav sumthing to tel me when she sees them in the mornin.

Jan. 4—Can't rite in my diury evry nite, spite of whut maw sez. A feller's gut to hev sum time tu read his novuls. Skool all day, chores at nite. an after supper i am goin to read. Durn the old diury any way. O, i spose i gut to rite in in it sum times, er maw wil wallop me. Readin 'Bufalo Bil's Chyan Comrads.' Bil is a he bear alrite. Teacher cot me readin it behind my jogerfy to day.

"Jonny i am sprized at yu," she sez.

"I wuz sprized myself," i sez. "If i hadn't bin yu wudn't cot me."

She red me a a lectur about readin dime novuls an then giv me a likin. But i gut evun with her. When she went to the basement i put 3 taks on her chare. Yu ort to seen her when she sot down. She gut rite up agin an didn't set doun no more all day. When i git as big as Bufalo Bil, I'm goin to lick evry teacher i cum acros.

Jan. 8—Paw give me a big bunch of his novuls to day. They wuz Frank Reads, Yung Sluths, Beaduls Boys Liburys, Dimun Diks and Old Log Cabins.

"There yu go agin," sez maw, "yu wil ruin that boy yet with them dime novuls, he wil gro up to be jest like yu."

"Yep," sez paw. "If owning a good home, a good biznus and muny in the bank, not to speak of a naggin wife, is bein ruined, then i am a ruined man."

(To be continued)

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**"NONAME" MUST HAVE BEEN IRISH!**

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**By FRANK T FRIES**

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In reading the Frank Reade stories, written by Lou Senarens, one cannot help noticing that Frank Reade's chum, Barney O'Shea, never missed an opportunity to give a dissertation on the rotten deal England was giving Ireland. But in the story "Frank Reade, Jr., Among the Slave Hunters," our friends were touring Africa in an armored car and ran into the real low-down on the Irish question. Happening to rescue a party of white men, who were besieged by a fierce African tribe, our travelers were surprised to find that the rescued men were all Irish. They had decided to move Ireland to Africa to escape the persecution of the bloody English—and with Frank Reade's help, they did found a colony and called it New Ireland.

"Noname" sometimes made ridiculous statements, but seemed to get away with even the most silly of situations. In one story of a submarine trip, the professor calmly opened a trap door in the bottom of the boat as they were gliding along near the bottom of the sea and jabbed a monster eel with a pike. The pressure of air within the boat kept the water out, so "Noname" explained. In another sub. story, Jack Wright was outside the boat in a diving suit when he was attacked by an octopus and he had forgotten to bring a weapon with him. A terrible situation to be in! But his Deutscher friend, Fritz Schneider, saved the day by handing our hero a knife—right through the side of the boat! You see, this sub. was equipped with rubber portholes for this very purpose. And one time the Irishman got separated from his friends and was left stranded on a sunken wreck for a short time—six weeks, to be exact. Frank Reade's marvelous diving suits evidently carried a large supply of air—and the small batteries these suits were equipped with for lighting purposes, were called upon on numerous occasions to protect the wearers from sharks and other man-eating denizens of the deep. A mere touch from a live wire would cause any shark to turn up its belly and give up the ghost.

A number of the American Frank Reades were reprinted in England. The first English edition appearing in the early 90's and the last one in '14.

The early reprints were fine. They were 32 pages, about 8x10 inches, colored covers and the stories were unabridged. The late editions were not so good: Only 16 pages, one color covers, stories hacked to pieces, poor printing. The steam man and steam horse became steam cars and in one story of a sunken diamond mine they changed it to a gold mine. The sea serpent became a sea mammoth and the stories were ruined for American readers, but no doubt the slow-witted English thought they had improved "Noname's" original writings.

**THIS AND THAT**

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**By W. B. McCAFFERTY**

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A recent news item from Dallas, Texas, states that Captain Wm. F. Long, aviator and adventurer, of that city, landed from his plane by means of a parachute, in one of the ancient, abandoned cities of the Mayan Indians of Yucatan.

His purpose is to search for treasure of the Mayan people. In a second parachute, packages of food and digging tools were dropped from the plane.

The captain will clear a landing place for the plane with the aid of the natives, providing he can coax them into service. On his ability to coax the natives will depend the success of the enterprise—and his life.

Well, here is a Frank Reade, a Pluck and Luck and a Fame and Fortune story all in one! Things that were wild imagining yesterday are truths of actual life today. How often we used to read of the ships that would fly through space and the journeys to far off and strange places they would make with their dauntless navigators. How many times have we read of their adventures in ancient cities, searching for treasures among the ruins of a lost race? "Treasure Houses of the Tartar King"—an old Pluck and Luck tale; "A Golden Risk," a treasure hunting tale in the old Fame and Fortune series and the many Frank Reade stories will immediately be remembered when we read such items as the above, taken from the "Dallas Times-Herald," of Dallas Texas. Truly the Dime Novel tales are becoming realities. ("The Steam Man," a Frank Reade story which is advertised in this issue of the Roundup, is, by a strange coincidence, a tale of treasure hunting and an ancient, abandoned city in Yucatan, the very place where Capt. Long now is.)

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**DECEASED****AN OLD COMPANION**

G. Waldo Browne hits the last trail. He has written many a novel in his time. He was born in Deerfield, Oct. 8, 1851. Some of his stories are: The Dread Rider; or, The Texan Duelist, Dandy Rock, The Man from Texas, and many other stories in the Beadles Dime, Half-Dime Libraries, etc.

He died in August, 1930.

Fireside Companion first appeared Nov. 2, 1867, ended Jan. 18, 1903. Wm. J. Benners (who sent in the above) wrote the following stories in the Chicago Ledger: "Maydeleenes Mystery," "2nd Mrs. Darlington," "Jeffery Dane's Heirs," "The Rajah's Jewels," "The House That Wouldn't Let," etc.

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